

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following marks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Ho for the indicated allowability of Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-19. Independent Claim 20 has been canceled. Thus, the only claims currently pending in this application are allowed claims.

Independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended without narrowing the claim scope to correct minor inadvertent errors. In Claim 1, the recitation of "a first space" in the latter part of the claim has been changed to —the first space—in light of the earlier recitation of the first space. Also, in Claim 8, a missing semicolon has been provided and the recitation of the "second casing" has been changed to —second casing portion—for purposes of consistency.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

As a final point, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 19, 2002. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the documents cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and to acknowledge such consideration by returning an initialed and signed copy of form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: May 11, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew L. Schneider", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Schneider  
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620